



THE JOINT STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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(20 Sep 61)

RG 215

DJSM-1-62

2 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Publicity Concerning Rotation of
Berlin Units

Attached herewith is the draft of a proposed memorandum to General Maxwell Taylor responsive to his query concerning the possible unnecessary exacerbation of East - West relations through public announcement of the rotation of units into and out of Berlin.

EARLE G. WHEELER
Lt. General, USA
Director

1-237

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~TOP SECRET~~

D R A F T

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL MAXWELL TAYLOR

Subject: Publicity Concerning Rotation of Berlin Units

References: a. USCINCEUR DA IN 152679, dated
b. USCINCEUR DA IN 154491, dated
c. JCS 2186, dated 15 Nov 61
d. STATE 769 to Berlin for Clay, dated 1 Dec
e. Berlin 1595 to STATE from Clay, dated
4 Dec 61

1. In response to your query concerning the possible unnecessary exacerbation of East - West relations through releases to the press of rotation of units into and out of Berlin, the following is submitted.

2. CINCEUR, on 20 September by reference a., recommended that the rotation of Battle Groups if approved, be announced publicly asserting the following advantages:

- a. Would preclude rumors in Germany which could offset USAREUR mission.
- b. Would reaffirm determination to maintain augmentation as long as required.
- c. Would capitalize on morale benefits of plan.

3. CINCEUR, on 25 September by reference b., recommended the theater commander be authorized to announce the policy of rotation of battle groups followed by minimum publicity at the time of exchange which would be announced as routine.

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4. The JCS, on 15 November by reference c., concurred in CINCEUR's plan for public release of information on rotation of battle groups and, noting the previous unfortunate press stress on the unusual nature of autobahn movements, requested that the policy announcement indicate the rotation was entirely a routine operation for training, morale, etc. The JCS further requested that they and DOD be advised at least fifteen days in advance of each rotation, the planned date for the operation and the public information announcement including the date of release.

5. No report has been made of movements of small units, but CINCEUR makes factual releases to the press in low key as a matter of routine.

6. STATE, on 1 December by reference d., cautioned General Clay that we should not distort the significance of normal exercise movements indicating that the President was concerned to avoid providing the SOVIETS with a lever with which to divide the Allies by a plausible claim that trouble originated from a US provocation.

7. General Clay, on 4 December by reference e., replied that from the beginning announcements have been called routine and they had tried to handle them in low key adding that "we cannot control a press which tries to make every incident sensational."

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8. General Gray discussed the "provocative" aspects of these press releases with CINCEUR personnel at the NATO Paris meeting and was assured that the releases had been in low key but that news media had chosen to blow them up.

9. If CINCEUR did not announce movements to the press in advance, speculation on the reasons for the movements would probably result in a larger news story than would be the case otherwise. Some press recognition is inevitable and the JCS approved policy now being implemented tends to minimize the press play given. I, therefore, believe this has been handled properly and that CINCEUR should continue his factual press releases in low key.

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